

Minutes Regular Meeting
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 15, 2003
City Hall Kiva Forum
3939 Drinkwater Boulevard

Present: Chairperson Bill Heckman, Vice-chair Lynn Timmons Edwards, Commissioner Shelley Anderson, David Fortney, Leigh Hersey, Nona Oliver, and Stephen Owens

Staff present: Johanna Bookbinder, Tara Dittmer, April Fortman, Gary Meyer, Bill Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Jay Osborn, Don Penfield, Judy Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Heckman called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Heckman asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice-chair Timmons Edwards moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 4, 2002. Commissioner Anderson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Judy Weiss, Manager in Parks, Recreation & Facilities, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. Leisure Ed/Special Interest/Outdoor Recreation registrations were up by 15% with 36.6% done On-Line, 41.7% done over the automated Touch Tone telephone and 21.6% done manually. Total recreation program registrations for the department are running about equal to that of the Winter 2002 Session. Eldorado construction is progressing on schedule. Conditioning Camp for the San Francisco Giants will be held from January 15-19. The Giants Fantasy Camp will run from the 20 - 26th where fans can sign up to spend the week playing competitive baseball with Giant player. They will be using the weight room and field for games and training. The San Francisco Giants return to Scottsdale Stadium for the 2003 Cactus League in mid-February. The Giants will play 16 home games with the first home game on February 27th at 1:05 pm against the Chicago Cubs. Tickets go on sale Tuesday, January 7th at 11:00 am at the Scottsdale Stadium Box Office, On-line at www.tickets.com, and by phone at (800) 225-2277. A Trails Master Plan Open House regarding neighborhood trails was held on January 9th. The Master Plan will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission on February 5th at a work/study session. It will return to the Commission for action on February 19th and proceed to the City Council at a study session on February 24th. Final construction permits for LaMirada are being obtained. It is anticipated that construction will commence in spring 2003. Sonoran Hills Park was opened to the public in November. A Grand Opening has been scheduled for February 8th at 11am to 1pm. The Grand Opening for the Scottsdale Ranch Desert Garden will be held on February 22nd at 11 a.m. At the Holiday Lights display at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park the event once again out did itself with a several new displays and more lights than in previous years. There were more lights in trees and on the ground. Our train rider numbers increased approximately 8% from the previous year with a total of 24,422 riders and there were 13,890 carousel riders. With regard to the Budget, it is estimated there will be an \$8 million deficit this fiscal year. The outlook is no better for the next fiscal year with a project \$14 million deficit. Staff is doing everything possible to reduce expenses. Staff is also evaluating service level reductions. The Youth Sports Task Force Draft Report has been distributed to the members of the task force and council. Staff met with School District and City Council SSD sub committee tomorrow. A copy will be distributed to the Commission very soon. The McDowell Mountain Ranch Master Site Plan scheduled to go before the City Council on January 6th was proposed in order to get further analysis that will include a traffic analysis. Transportation is using Kimley Horn for that study. A new council date has been set for Monday, March 17th in the City Hall Kiva Forum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

As provided for in the Parks & Recreation Commission By-Laws, the Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the first regularly scheduled meeting each calendar year. The new officers will take office immediately and serve for a term of one year. Chairperson Heckman asked for nominations for the office of Chairperson. Vice-chair Timmons Edwards nominated Commissioner Anderson for the position of Chairperson and Commissioner Hersey for the position of Vice-chair. Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Hersey were unanimously elected.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MASTER PLAN

Don Penfield, Community Services Advisor, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Parks and Recreation element of the new Community Services Facilities Master Plan. Mr. Penfield summarized what has taken place in the past few months of work and provided a forecast of the next steps to be taken in the plan update. This Plan is being designed to give to city staff, commissions/boards, and the city council guidance for the provision, planning, and budgeting of future facilities required, to meet the community service needs of Scottsdale citizens. The Plan addresses not only parks and recreation, but also the facility needs of the library services and human/social services. Mr. Penfield introduced Charlie Deans, the principal of Planners Ink, consultants for this project.

Commissioner Heckman asked if there was a defined date for the report to come back to the Commission. Mr. Penfield said staff does not have final date and will present a schedule with the specific dates as the agendas allow. Commissioner Heckman suggested bringing the report back in parts with a summary at the end. The information gathered on the "Need for Additional Facilities" comparing the need for smaller neighborhood parks verses larger community parks may be the result of a lack of understanding about the question. Mr. Deans said that is how the question works comparing the two types of parks. Commissioner Heckman said it might be helpful to clarify that point in the final report. Commissioner Heckman asked how the benchmark cities were selected. Mr. Deans said it was done through a variety of criteria such as similar demographics, is the city part of a larger metropolitan area rather than a stand-alone city, and ranking highly in various services. Commissioner Heckman asked if that is a part of the basis for the recommended new guidelines. Mr. Deans said that would be part of the final recommendations. Prioritization will be critical in the plan.

Commissioner Hersey asked if there would be any recommendations for how much land is available for use. Mr. Deans said it would be a part of the recommendation. Mr. Penfield said we are facing an interesting situation. In the past there was a lot of land that could be dedicated as parks through the zoning process by the developers. With those types of projects diminishing, the likelihood of that happening becomes less and less. We now have to identify the cost of the land along with the cost to build parks. The report will not identify specific parcels but will identify service areas and needs. Commissioner Heckman said he recalls that 10 years ago we identified service areas where facilities are needed and we are still far short. There is an inherent danger in not identifying the sites. He urges that the report make the entire list known, don't short change it, and get the best information from all the groups to help shape the priorities.

Commissioner Owens asked if the report is based on the 2020 report or current operational levels. Mr. Deans said both. Commissioner Owens said we continue to fall further behind. Mr. Deans said recommendations and implementation strategies would be presented. Ultimately it will be the will of the council to approve a plan on how to achieve these things.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if the Commission could be provided with a larger more readable copy of the Community Services map. Mr. Penfield said staff would do a larger map.

Commissioner Heckman noted the biggest problem is how fast the city has grown. The rate of growth for the first time will begin to slow down and will provide the opportunity for the city to catch up on facilities. However, that growth was the means of achieving the required funding. Now obtaining the funding and getting things done in a timely fashion will be the challenge. This plan is a wonderful approach.

UPDATE FROM ADAPTED RECREATION

Tara Dittmer, Recreation Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation to Commission on the Adapted Recreation Program including the program mission, goals, statistics, and activities. The program was designed to meet the recreational needs for youth and adults in Scottsdale with disabilities. Ms. Dittmer introduced Johanna Bookbinder, Recreation Leader III, and April Fortman, Recreation Leader II. The program currently has 14 part time staff.

Commissioner Heckman asked if staff interfaces with the Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicap. Ms. Dittmer said staff has recently started working with the Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicap and they have proven to be a good resource for referrals. Staff also toured the Foundation recently. The two groups have begun talking about collaborative events.

Chairperson Anderson asked if there are activities for young adults. Ms. Dittmer said the age for participation in the teen program goes to 22 as it does in the schools. Young adults also utilize many of the adult activities.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Anderson called for any items from the floor. There were none.

Chairperson Anderson asked for any comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Heckman asked for the McDowell Mountain Ranch Pool issue to be presented as a formal part of the agenda for the next meeting. He feels the Commission is frustrated as a group and wants answers. He also requests that the Commission review the trails issue at an upcoming meeting. He has heard about the neighborhood meetings and received letters and e-mails and would like to be able to respond to the concerns. He would like to get a better understanding on the actual realities relating to the budget, such as what is the priority and how does it impact on the timeline on projects. There is a vested interest in working closely on the various projects. Ms. Weiss noted that the Trails Master Plan is scheduled for a Work Study session on February 5th and action on February 19th.

Commissioner Oliver would like staff to speak with her about many dying trees throughout the City.

Commissioner Owens asked if the Commission would be getting a copy of the Sports Field Maintenance task Force report and receiving an update on the issue. Ms. Weiss said it will be coming before the Commission at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Heckman moved the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Hersey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Debra Baird, Director
Parks, Recreation & Facilities